

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6554

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: EXCHANGE OF RESEARCH
CULTURES

FOR SCI AND NASA

REF: A. STATE 31472; B. STATE 148344; C. STATE 116028

1. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADVISE DR. LAWRENCE HALL, CHIEF OF NASA PLANETARY PROGRAM, THAT PROFESSOR VASHKOV IS READY TO SEND RESEARCH CULTURES TO HALL. HOWEVER, SOVIET SIDE WISHES TO HAVE LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FROM USDA COVERING ENTRY OF THESE CULTURES INTO THE US, PRESUMABLY AS WAIVER OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY AFTER ENTRY.

2. AS ALTERNATIVE TO ABOVE, WE BELIEVE WE COULD PERSUADE VASHKOV TO DELIVER CULTURES TO EMBASSY WITHOUT SUCH FORMAL USDA AUTHORIZATION. WE COULD THEN FORWARD THEM TO JFK VIA PAN AM, PROVIDED THAT PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING THEM SIMILAR TO THOSE OUTLINED IN REFS B AND C ARE ESTABLISHED, AND PROVIDED THAT VASHKOV HAS ALREADY GIVEN NASA ADEQUATE INFORMATION FOR SAFETY ASSESSMENT CONCERNING SHIPMENT AND HANDLING OF CULTURES IN HIS LETTER TO HALL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1973.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.

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